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2. [AMENDED] The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the clamp comprises:

- 64
- (a) an upper jaw;
  - (b) a lower jaw;
  - (c) a backplate, the lower jaw and the upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate; and
  - (d) a latch that restrains the lower and upper jaws against movement relative to one another.

3. [AMENDED] The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cutting device that is disposed on the table.

5. [AMENDED] The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

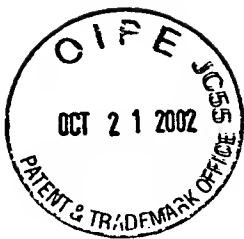
- 65
- (a) a mount;
  - (b) a shaft that is affixed on one end to the mount and on the other end to the clamp, such that the clamp can rotate in 360 degrees;
  - (c) a tray that is affixed to the table;
  - (d) a track that is disposed in the tray, the track guiding the mount such that the mount slidably translates from the front to the rear of the table; and
  - (e) a plunger that fixes the mount to the shaft when a desired rotational position of the clamp is reached.

13. [AMENDED] A clamp comprising:

- 64
- (a) an upper jaw;
  - (b) a lower jaw;
  - (c) a backplate, the lower jaw and the upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate; and
  - (d) a latch that restrains the lower and upper jaws against movement relative to one another.

16. [AMENDED] The clamp of claim 13, in combination with:

- 65
- (a) a table;
  - (b) a mount;
  - (c) a shaft that is affixed on one end to the mount and on the other end to the clamp, such that the clamp can rotate in 360 degrees;
  - (d) a tray that is affixed to the table;
  - (e) a track that is disposed in the tray, the track guiding the mount such that the mount slidably translates from the front to the rear of the table; and
  - (f) a plunger that fixes the mount to the shaft when a desired rotational position of the clamp is reached.



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Please add Claims 23-31 as follows:

23. [NEW] The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the item is a linear member.
24. [NEW] The linear member of claim 23, selected from the group consisting of: window blinds, window shades, window louvers and curtain rods:
25. [NEW] The apparatus of claim 5, wherein a cutting device is disposed on the table such that one end of the linear member can be applied to the cutting device, cutting off the end of the linear member and wherein the mount can be translated to the forward edge of the table allowing the clamp to be rotated 180 degrees and translating the mount toward the rear of the table thereby applying the second end of the linear member to the cutting device and cutting off the second end of the linear member.
26. [NEW] The table of claim 16, which has a cutting device disposed on it.
27. [NEW] A method of cutting the end off of a linear member comprising:
- (a) restraining the member in a clamp;
  - (b) applying a cutting device to one end of the linear member and cutting the end;
  - (c) translating the clamp to the front of the table;
  - (d) rotating the clamp holding the linear member 180 degrees; and
  - (e) applying the cutting device to the second end, cutting the second end of the linear member.
28. [NEW] The method of claim 27, further comprising:
- (a) a table;
  - (b) a mount;
  - (c) a shaft that is affixed on one end to the mount and on the other end to the clamp, such that the clamp can rotate in 360 degrees;
  - (d) a tray that is affixed to the table;
  - (e) a track that is disposed in the tray, the track guiding the mount such that the mount slidably translates from the front to the back of the table; and
  - (f) a plunger that fixes the mount to the shaft when a desired rotational position of the clamp is reached.

29. [NEW] The method of claim 27, wherein the clamp comprises:

- (a) an upper jaw;  
(b) a lower jaw;  
(c) a backplate, the lower jaw and the upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate; and  
(d) a latch that restrains the lower and upper jaws against movement relative to one another.

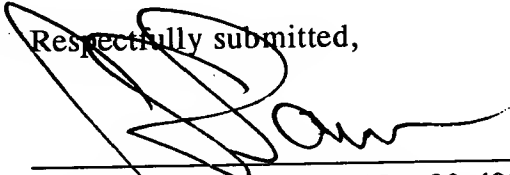
29. <sup>30</sup> [NEW] The method of claim 27, further comprising a cutting device disposed on the table.

30. <sup>31</sup> [NEW] The method of claim 27, wherein the linear member comprises a window blind, a curtain rod, a window shade, or a widow louver.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now ready for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. Serial No.: 09/693,408

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Applicants: Alan C. Atwood

Group Art Unit: 3724

Examiner: Goodman

Attorney Docket No.: 34828.006

**FULL SET OF "CLEAN" CLAIMS AS AMENDED, 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(3)**

1. **[AMENDED]** An apparatus for holding an item to be cut comprising:
  - (a) a table; and
  - (b) a clamp for holding the item, the clamp being capable of translating on the table from the front to the rear of the table and rotating on an axis perpendicular to the table such that the item held by the clamp can be rotated in 360 degrees.
2. **[AMENDED]** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the clamp comprises:
  - (a) an upper jaw;
  - (b) a lower jaw;
  - (c) a backplate, the lower jaw and the upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate; and
  - (d) a latch that restrains the lower and upper jaws against movement relative to one another.
3. **[AMENDED]** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a cutting device that is disposed on the table.
5. **[AMENDED]** The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
  - (a) a mount;
  - (b) a shaft that is affixed on one end to the mount and on the other end to the clamp, such that the clamp can rotate in 360 degrees;
  - (c) a tray that is affixed to the table;
  - (d) a track that is disposed in the tray, the track guiding the mount such that the mount slidably translates from the front to the rear of the table; and
  - (e) a plunger that fixes the mount to the shaft when a desired rotational position of the clamp is reached.

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13. **[AMENDED]** A clamp comprising:
- (a) an upper jaw;
  - (b) a lower jaw;
  - (c) a backplate, the lower jaw and the upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate; and
  - (d) a latch that restrains the lower and upper jaws against movement relative to one another.
16. **[AMENDED]** The clamp of claim 13, in combination with:
- (a) a table;
  - (b) a mount;
  - (c) a shaft that is affixed on one end to the mount and on the other end to the clamp, such that the clamp can rotate in 360 degrees;
  - (d) a tray that is affixed to the table;
  - (e) a track that is disposed in the tray, the track guiding the mount such that the mount slidably translates from the front to the rear of the table; and
  - (f) a plunger that fixes the mount to the shaft when a desired rotational position of the clamp is reached.
23. **[NEW]** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the item is a linear member.
24. **[NEW]** The linear member of claim 23, selected from the group consisting of: window blinds, window shades, window louvers and curtain rods.
25. **[NEW]** The apparatus of claim 5, wherein a cutting device is disposed on the table such that one end of the linear member can be applied to the cutting device, cutting off the end of the linear member and wherein the mount can be translated to the forward edge of the table allowing the clamp to be rotated 180 degrees and translating the mount toward the rear of the table thereby applying the second end of the linear member to the cutting device and cutting off the second end of the linear member.
26. **[NEW]** The table of claim 16, which has a cutting device disposed on it.

27. [NEW] A method of cutting the end off of a linear member comprising:
- (a) restraining the member in a clamp;
  - (b) applying a cutting device to one end of the linear member and cutting the end;
  - (c) translating the clamp to the front of the table;
  - (d) rotating the clamp holding the linear member 180 degrees; and
  - (e) applying the cutting device to the second end, cutting the second end of the linear member.
28. [NEW] The method of claim 27, further comprising:
- (a) a table;
  - (b) a mount;
  - (c) a shaft that is affixed on one end to the mount and on the other end to the clamp, such that the clamp can rotate in 360 degrees;
  - (d) a tray that is affixed to the table;
  - (e) a track that is disposed in the tray, the track guiding the mount such that the mount slidably translates from the front to the back of the table; and
  - (f) a plunger that fixes the mount to the shaft when a desired rotational position of the clamp is reached.
29. [NEW] The method of claim 27, wherein the clamp comprises:
- (a) an upper jaw;
  - (b) a lower jaw;
  - (c) a backplate, the lower jaw and the upper jaw pivotally connected to the backplate; and
  - (d) a latch that restrains the lower and upper jaws against movement relative to one another.
30. [NEW] The method of claim 27, further comprising a cutting device disposed on the table.
31. [NEW] The method of claim 27, wherein the linear member comprises a window blind, a curtain rod, a window shade, or a window louver.